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THE HOUR URGES INVESTIGATION OF "COMMITTEE FOR  
THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY"

Group With Proclaimed Democratic Aims Is  
Headed by Alleged Agent of Gestapo and Is  
Acting as Front for Nazis

The Hour urges that federal authorities conduct an immediate investigation of the so-called Committee for the Promotion of Democracy. The Committee, which has headquarters at 103 Park Avenue, was formed in August of this year. Its announced purpose was to rally "American citizens of Eastern European birth or descent" around a program of pro-democratic activity. Facts, however, indicate that the Committee is actually serving as a front for the Nazis.

In describing its aims in a letter to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy stated,

"The Committee ... will consider as one of its main tasks the support of the people and the government of the United States of America in their trend and efforts to lay the foundations of peace on the principles of justice and freedom, excluding any political or economic subjugations; to preserve the existing form of democratic government in America, and, simultaneously, to promote and help the reconstruction of other countries on the same foundations."

On September 25 the Committee issued a memorandum announcing it was undertaking these specific projects: 1) a propaganda bureau; 2) a periodical in English; 3) a radio program in the service of the "entire anti-Nazi front of Eastern European nations"; 4) a campaign of mass meetings "for the exposure of fifth column activities"; 5) a Congress of organizations of American citizens of Eastern European birth or descent; 6) a Legion of Volunteers, to be recruited particularly among Slavik-Americans, to be ultimately used against "the German invaders ... in the Balkans."

These claims of democratic purposes appear very strange in

the light of certain information we have secured.

## Secretary Nikifor Grigorieff

The executive secretary of the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy is a gentleman by the name of Nikifor Grigorieff. Grigorieff came from Czechoslovakia to the United States about two years ago. His wife and son remained in Czechoslovakia, where they are said to be very active in the Nazi movement. After his arrival in the United States, Grigorieff joined the Ukrainian Workingmen's Association; he was expelled from this organization when its members decided he was maintaining connections with the Nazis.

Grigorieff's political tendencies are indicated in the following excerpt from an article by him which appeared in the July 17 issue of the Detroit pro-fascist publication, Fatherland:

"... The German dictatorship is a natural manifestation of the majority of the German people. It corresponds to spiritual peculiarities of that people. Hitler came to power by the will of the German people, by pacific methods, by a free vote. A dictatorship in Germany (with or without Hitler) corresponds to the nature of the German people."

On November 17 a newspaper in Cuba published an article describing Nazi espionage activities in that country. The article contained this significant passage:

"... At the time of the formation of the Organization [a Nazi-Ukrainian espionage ring] in 1939, two Ukrainian Nazis, leaders of an organization in the United States, came to Havana. They are active agents of the Gestapo. Their names are: N. Grigorieff and a Dr. Sichinsky."

## Committee Members

Executive Secretary Grigorieff is not the only suspicious character in this committee which has been organized to "promote democracy." We have investigated the records of other prominent members of the organization and we can report the following facts about them.

Victor Chernov came from Paris to the United States about four months ago. He is said to be a German agent of long standing. During the first World War he published a Russian-language paper in Switzerland, which was subsidized by the Kaiser's government. At that time he was on the blacklist of the British Intelligence. His present address is 222 Riverside Drive, New York City.

Nikita Mandryga is a familiar figure in Ukrainian fascist circles. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Avramenko Film, Ltd., of Winnipeg, Canada. Avramenko is a leading Nazi-Ukrainian, and his firm has specialized in



taking pictures of U. S. industrial centers and transportation facilities (see The Hour for August 30).

F. J. Bagocius, president of the Lithuanian Alliance of America and an officer in the U. S. Army, has for some time been associated with the pro-Nazi publication Keleivis. He has maintained contacts with fascist Ukrainians in this country. His address is 253 West Broadway, South Boston, Mass.

Fedor Mansvetov has had a somewhat checkered career. A native of Russia, he was at one time active in the Russian Social Revolutionary Party, and he is reported to have been ousted from this organization for alleged misappropriation of funds. He has been connected with questionable financial projects in Mexico. At present he is employed as a translator for the War Department in the New York office at South Ferry, New York City. His home address is 514 West 153rd Street, New York City. (Nazi Grigorieff is sharing Mansvetov's apartment with him.)

#### Committee's Real Function

The true role of the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy is revealed by the nature of its leadership. Under the camouflage of stimulating democratic activity, this organization is obviously aimed at furthering Fifth Column machinations in this country.

A federal investigation is made doubly urgent by the fact that some members of the Committee have contact with the United States Army.

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#### BUND "LOYALTY"

The German-American Bund, which has played a leading role in the Nazi Fifth Column in the United States, is now counseling its members to "support" the United States Government in its prosecution of the war. The Free American and Deutsche Weckruf und Beobachter, official organ of the Bund, declared in its most recent issue: "The die is cast. There is no alternative. The Bund and The Free American will abide by the decisions of Congress." The paper carried the headline: "Our country, right or wrong, when invaded."

No one should be deceived by these protestations of loyalty from these traitors who operate under the guidance of the Third Reich. At this time it is important to remember the oath which Bundites have been required to take;

"I solemnly swear fidelity to my leader Adolf Hitler. I promise Adolf Hitler and everyone known by me to be designated by him or known to me through his credentials, respect and absolute obedience, and I give allegiance herewith to fulfill all orders without restriction, and

with my entire will, because I know that my leader does not require anything from me illegally."

These henchmen of Adolf Hitler will continue to serve his cause. Their proclaimed support of our government is a mere tactic. They want to remain free in order to carry out more Nazi Fifth Column work in this country. They should be taken into custody by the federal authorities.

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#### MORE ON PAUL SCHEFFER

As this item is written, Paul Scheffer, German "journalist" whose espionage and sabotage work in the Soviet Union was reported by The Hour on November 17, can still be found at 227 East 57th Street (Apartment G), New York City. As we pointed out in our article on him, this Nazi is now operating under the directions of Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels. August Halfeld and other Nazis identified by us as working with Scheffer have already been arrested by the FBI.

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#### UKRAINIAN FIFTH COLUMNISTS

The following fascist Ukrainians, whose Fifth Column machinations have been previously exposed in The Hour, should be apprehended by the federal authorities; Luke Myshuha of Jersey City, N. J., editor of the Ukrainian-language publication Svoboda, spokesman for the Nazis over their radio network, and publisher of instructions on the making of bombs and other explosives; Vladimir Dushnyk of Bronx, N. Y., an alien working with Nazi-Ukrainians, who was arrested in Belgium as a German spy prior to his coming to the United States; Ivan Baran of Pittsburgh, Pa., a naturalized citizen active in the Nazi-Ukrainian underground apparatus; Vassil Avramenko of Los Angeles, Cal., co-worker with Axis agents and head of Avramenko Film, Ltd., which has specialized in photographing U.S. industrial centers; Theodore Wozniak of New York City, an alien who served as a German sabotage agent in the last World War and assisted in setting off the Black Tom Explosion; Eugene Skotzko of Washington, D.C., who has been maintaining close contact with the Japanese; H. G. Skehar of Los Angeles, Cal., who has worked with Avramenko and been active in the ODNW, Nazi-Ukrainian organization; Kalina Lissiuk of South Plainsfield, N. Y., a naturalized American citizen working with Nazi-Ukrainian terrorists; Walter P. Blondyn (alias Vladimir Blondinenko) of Akron, Ohio, member of ODNW who visited Germany in 1938 and returned with valuable photographic equipment.

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